

June Nelson Scholarship Essay Response - Kelsey Prax

My brother graduated from Idaho State University with a degree in Business. He has been my biggest inspiration and confirmation that business is the path for me. Growing up as his little sister, he instantly became my role model. When I had trouble making friends as a kid, he never let me be alone and let me stick to his side. He never shied away from a hug, even when his friends and classmates were watching. He taught me the importance of integrity and grit by never letting me give up on myself and pushing me. His curiosity taught me to question everything and never waver in spirit. He built a homemade sailboat for hours when everyone thought it was a worthless endeavor; this let my imagination thrive. He kept me accountable and shaped me into the person I am today. His advice and modeling even helped me to decide on Business as my major. When he invited me to visit his college and allowed me to meet with his professors about business, I was instantly entrapped into the business world. It is rare to get a brother as honorable, selfless, and admirable as him to help guide me in life and help usher me into the new chapter of my life.

Business-inspired people have surrounded my life. My parents both own a business, so the business world has come easily to me. As a small child, I was constantly curious, and I became immersed in the business industry. My dad taught me that running a business is an intricate system. My mom taught me how a balance is necessary to be fully effective and that I don't have to lose meaningful relationships with a demanding job. My parents are also very involved in community service, so the importance of community service is deeply rooted in me. Since I was a little kid, I participated in the same nonprofit organizations as my parents. One of these organizations was the Valdez Fish Derbies. Through this organization, I was put in front of hundreds of Alaskan women to give away prizes and announce winners at a young age. I learned that I loved to be in front of people and work with others for a common goal. This fueled my passion for interacting with people and public speaking.

Through this experience, I also discovered a sense of community among many Alaskan women while getting to work with my parents. The volunteers allowed me to feel comfortable while pushing my boundaries. I found a sense of belonging and pride working with these amazing women who organized the event. Community service provides me with a sense of accomplishment, and I feel gratified to give back to the community that helped me find my place and grow.

Being able to see the inner workings of the nonprofit enticed my curiosity. I was prompted to pay attention to the small details that made the event successful, and I saw the numerous factors that many people don't see when they just participate in the derby. A lot had to happen behind the scenes, from budgeting to recruiting people to volunteer for the event. I was intrigued by all of the different aspects of the nonprofit that had to communicate and collaborate. Through the derby and other community service, I have gained experience in business and leadership skills by watching and learning from the amazing volunteers I looked up to.

The amazing role models in my life have inspired me to pursue business and attend college at North Carolina State University. I am looking forward to expanding my business

knowledge and studying abroad to increase my awareness. After I finish my education, I intend to build my knowledge and climb the ladder to reach my career goal of making it into the C-Suite at a publicly traded company. Using my family's knowledge and advice, I know I will be well equipped for my future and carry on the legacy of helping and leading others. I want to use the skills I have built to make a difference and lead others with integrity and determination to reach my goals.